



City of Homer

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Memorandum 21-159

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: September 3, 2021
SUBJECT: HERC Planning Funding

The redevelopment of the HERC campus has been a high priority for the City for some time now. Momentum on the project was lost with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Council and Administration have both been actively working to get the HERC project back underway.

The ordinance to be introduced on September 13th which appropriates \$75,000 from the HERC CARMA fund for professional services for public process and feasibility of a new multi-use center, is a big first step towards developing the project and moving it forward.

Originally, I intended to have a work session first, and then to bring forward a funding opportunity. Potential funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the American Rescue Plan Act has altered the timeline. On September 1st I met with Tim Dillon of the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) and Shirley Kelly who is the top EDA official in Alaska. During that conversation it became apparent that the HERC's redevelopment could be a very competitive project for a travel, tourism & outdoor recreation grant program. I would like to accelerate the process with the help of a consultant.

Staff will still be hosting a HERC work session on September 27th. We hope to get this ordinance adopted that evening so that we can launch an RFP for professional services shortly thereafter and award a contract by the end of October.

Staff Recommendation: Introduce ordinance on September 13th, adopt on September 27th.